

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 IO-09

SS-14 PM-03 L-03 EB-05 DODE-00 INR-09 CIAE-00 ORM-01

SR-02 ABF-01 SCS-01 MED-01 SPM-01 INRE-00 RSR-01 /122 W
----- 067227

O 301625 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1331

INFO COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

* DAMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 2926

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SWEL, TS

AIDAC FOR AID DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: SITREP N O. 4 - DISASTER RELIEF TUNISIA

REF: TUNIS 1692

SITUATION AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS MARCH 30 AS FOLLOWS:

1. OPERATIONS STILL PROCEEDING EFFICIENTLY UNDER TUNISIAN
COORDINATION. TUNISIANS CONTINUE FOLLOW SECTOR APPROACH
FOR HELICOPTER OPERATIONS, WHICH PROVIING SUCCESSFUL.
EMBASSY LIAISON WITH TUNISIAN ARMY (CHUSLOT) REPORTS THAT
NOW ALL PERSONS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED THAT IT POSSIBLE TO
EVACUATE. NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO STILL STRANDED ARE
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REFUSING OFFERS EVACUATION ON GROUNDS THAT WATER CONTINUING TO RECEDE.

2. DURING COURSE DAY MARCH 30, HELICOPTERS BEGAN MOVING INTO SUPPLY OPERATION. RELIEF SUPPLIES AVAILABLE AT AIRPORT BEGAN RUNNING OUT ABOUT NOON, BUT WERE QUICKLY REPLENISHED. GOT BORROWING FROM AVAILABLE TITLE II STOCKS IN TUNIS ALTHOUGH AMOUNTS NOT YET DETERMINED. BLANKETS SUPPLIED BY FRENCH AND ITALIANS APPEARED, AND TUNISIANS THEMSELVES HAVE PURCHASED ABOUT 18,000 BLANKETS. FOOD ITEMS BEING SUPPLIED INCLUDE PRIMARILY BREAD, CHEESE AND CANNED FISH. ITEMS OF CLOTHING ALSO BEING SUPPLIED.

3. NO ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS HAVE JOINED OPERATION, AND ONE OF U. S. HELICOPTERS OUT OF SERVICE FOR MAINTENANCE. GOT COORDINATOR HAS ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS, BUT CHUSLOT ESTIMATES THAT HELICOPTERS IN SERVICE ARE ADEQUATE FOR DELIVERING SUPPLIES AVAILABLE, AND HAS TOLD BALY THAT PROBLEM IS REALLY WITH FINDING ADDITIONAL RELIEF SUPPLIES.

4. POTABLE WATER AVAILABILITY MAY BECOME CRITICAL PROBLEM IN SOME AREAS. WATER IS BEING SUPPLIED FROM TUNIS NOW, AND WE ARE ASKING FOR ESTIMATE AVAILABILITY OF WATER LOCALLY AS WELL AS FROM SIXTH FLEET SHIPS, WHICH OF COURSE HAVE DESALINIZATION CAPABILITY. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS CLOSELY.

5. U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL OFFICER, AFTER OVERFLYING AREA, CONCLUDES THAT NO CRITICAL HEALTH PROBLEM EXISTS NOW BUT MAY DEVELOP IN NEXT FEW DAYS. HE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT NAVAL MEDICAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT IN NAPLES STAND BY FOR ASSISTANCE IN MASS INOCULATION PROGRAM. WE ARE SURVEYING AVAILABILITY TYPHOID VACCINE LOCALLY.

6. FOOD MAY BECOME CRITICAL FACTOR. SOME VICTIMS HAVE NOT EATEN FOR FOUR DAYS. MAIN PROBLEM FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE LOGISTICAL RATHER THAN IN- COUNTRY AVAILABILITY OF FOOD STOCKS.

7. AID MISSION RETURNED FROM EXTENSIVE RECONNAISSANCE MISSION AND CONFIRMS THAT WATERS ARE SUBSIDING SOMEWHAT, BUT STILL FLOWING HEAVILY. MEDJEZ EL BAB, DJEDEIDA, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTS OF TEBOURBA STILL UNDER SEVERAL FEET OF SWIFT FLOWING WATER. ALSO REPORTS THAT IT MAY TAKE NUMBER OF WEEKS BEFORE WATER IN SOME AREAS OF LOWER MEDJERDA FULLY DISAPPEARS.

8. WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT APPROXIMATELY 20,000 BLANKETS CAN BE PURCHASED LOCALLY AT COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$93,000 (REF STATE 058562). SINCE IT APPEARS THAT GOT IS MEETING SOME OF ITS NEEDS FROM OTHER SOURCES, WE HAVE NOT YET TAKEN FINAL DECISION OF THIS. DEPENDING ON NEEDS AS WE ASSESS THEM TOMORROW, WE ARE PREPARED PURCHASE BLANKETS PERHAPS SEVERAL THOUSAND AT A TIME(BEARING IN MIND NEED TO ECONOMIZE).

9. NEXT SITREP WILL PROVIDE DETAILED REPORT AID TEAM'S RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY.

10. PRIMIN NOUIRA IN PRESS CONFERENCE 1800 AFTER SURVEY MISSION MADE SPECIAL POINT PRAISING U. S. ASSISTANCE, IN PRESENCE AMBASSADOR AND ADMIRAL TURNER OF FORRESTAL. SEELYE

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